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The trap should be placed on a hard surface with the rear end a little higher than the entrance, so that the trap will close promptly. When setting the trap in an open place it should be fastened to a board on which about an inch of soft dirt has been spread. Place the trap where rats usually go for food, or in a runway, and disturb the surroundings as little as possible. It is sometimes well to place the trap near dripping water, as the rats may go there to drink. If the trap is set in hay, straw, or wood, it should be covered (with the exception of the entrance) with the same material. When this is not possible, it should be covered with a piece of sacking, or placed in a dark corner, or beneath the floors. When setting the traps in the sewer, a dry place should be chosen.

The rat is more or less of an epicure, therefore the bait should be changed at frequent intervals. For bait the rat should be given food which is not usual for him to obtain. In a meat market, for example, vegetables are the best bait, while in a location where vegetables are plentiful, fresh liver and fish heads or a little grain are best. The following may be suggested as good bait to be used: Fish, fish heads, raw meat, cheese, smoked fish, fresh liver, cooked corned beef, fried bacon, pine nuts, apples, carrots, and corn. When trapping in chicken yards a small chick or duckling is a remarkably good bait. When a large number of rats are caught in one trap, search for the female rat and leave her alive in the trap, as she may call in the young or the males. The bait should be fastened to the inner side of the top of the trap with a piece of fine wire, so that the first rat that goes in can not force the bait underneath the pan and thus prevent the entrance of other rats. A few grains of barley should be scattered near the entrance of the trap and a small piece of cheese or meat fastened to the pan with a bit of wire. It is often well to touch the pan with a feather which has been dipped in oil of anise or oil of rhodium. The trap should be smoked with a piece of burning newspaper to take away the smell of the human hands, or of rats which have been caught in the trap. Do not handle the trap after burning it out. When trapping in a neighborhood where rats are known to exist, the traps should not be moved for three or four days unless they have rats in them, as it is well for the rats to become accustomed to seeing the traps and thus careless about entering them. It is not wise to kill rats where they are caught, as the squealing may frighten away the other rats.

Snap or spring traps are best for use in houses and stores, with the exception of fish and meat markets. Snap traps are best for use in runways and on beams and shelves. It is sometimes well to disguise the trap by covering its floor with a little sawdust or dirt. The traps should first be tested to see that they work properly and that the staples are secure. New traps should be smoked or stained to render them of an inconspicuous color.

The bait should consist of some firm material, such as fried bacon or tough meat, and should be tied on so that the rat will be obliged to pull on it and thus spring the trap. The trap should be placed in a corner or close to the wall on a flat, hard surface in order that the rat can not spring it with his tail or by walking on it.

In warehouses and granaries large numbers of rats may frequently be trapped by using a barrel or garbage can having a metal top which is carefully balanced. A large piece of strong cheese is placed in the middle of the cover and a plank laid from the floor to the edge of the barrel. The rat runs up the plank and on the smooth metallic lid, which tips, precipitating the rat into the barrel.

PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

The following letter of acceptance of the presidency of the International Congress on Tuberculosis has been sent by the President of the United States to Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, chairman of the committee of arrangements for the congress:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, May 12, 1908.

SIR: It is with great pleasure that I accept the presidency of the International Congress on Tuberculosis, which is to meet in this city on September 21, 1908, and extend its session to October 12, 1908. Official duties, however, may prevent my presiding at the initial meeting of the congress, in which case I will deputize Secretary Cortelyou.

The importance of the crusade against tuberculosis, in the interest of which this Congress convenes, can not be overestimated when it is realized that tuberculosis

costs our country 200,000 lives a year and the entire world a million lives a year, besides constituting a most serious handicap to material progress, prosperity, and happiness, and being an enormous expense to society, most often in those walks of life where the burden is least bearable.

Science has demonstrated that this disease can be stamped out, but the rapidity and completeness with which this can be accomplished depend upon the promptness with which the new doctrines about tuberculosis can be inculcated into the minds of the people and engrafted upon our customs, habits, and laws. The presence in our midst of representatives of world-wide workers in this magnificent cause gives an unusual opportunity for accelerating the educational part of the programme.

The modern crusade against tuberculosis brings hope and bright prospects of recovery to hundreds and thousands of victims of the disease, who, under old teachings, were abandoned to despair. The work of this congress will bring the results of the latest studies and investigations before the profession at large and place in the hands of our physicians all the newest and most approved methods of treating the disease—a knowledge which will add many years of valuable life to our people, and will thereby increase our public wealth and happiness.

The International Congress on Tuberculosis is in the interest of universal peace. By joining in such a warfare against a common foe the peoples of the world are brought closer together and made to better realize the brotherhood of man; for a united interest against a common foe fosters universal friendship. Our country, which is honored this year as the host of other nations in this great gathering of leaders and experts, and as the custodian of the magnificent exhibit which will be set up by the entire world, should manifest its appreciation by giving the congress a setting worthy of the cause, of our guests, and of ourselves. We should endeavor to make it the greatest and the most fruitful congress which has yet been held, and I assure you of my interest and services to that end.

With expressions of appreciation for the compliment conferred in extending the invitation to become president of the congress,

Very respectfully,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Statistics of plague in California.

Total cases of plague at San Francisco verified bacteriologically to May 16, 121; total cases verified clinically, 38; total deaths, 77. The last case at San Francisco was taken sick January 30 and confirmed by bacteriological examination as plague February 8, 1908. Date of finding of last plague-infected rat, May 16.

The last case at Oakland, Cal., died December 22, 1907. The last plague-infected rats at Oakland were found during the week ended April 11, 1908. The only case at Berkeley, Cal., died September 1, 1907. The only case at Point Richmond, Cal., was taken sick November 27, 1907, and recovered.

Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, and in Contra Costa County, Cal.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Week ended May 16.

Sick inspected	25
Dead inspected	122
Premises inspected	18, 878
Houses disinfected	140
Houses destroyed	2
Buildings condemned	3
Nuisances abated	3, 375